Annex

[Original: English/French]

Statement on Georgia

The European Union welcomes the fact that negotiations have started under the auspices of the United Nations on the situation in Georgia, with particular reference to the Abkhaz region. These negotiations should initiate the gradual re-establishing of peace in Abkhazia. Moves towards a peaceful resolution of the situation in Abkhazia will certainly have positive repercussions for the whole of Georgia.

The European Union reaffirms the importance it attaches to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. It confirms that it is essential for all parties to respect the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and humanitarian law.

The European Union calls on the parties to commit themselves seriously to this negotiating process and to refrain from any resumption of hostilities. A political solution to the conflict must be found within the framework of existing international frontiers and by means of dialogue.

The European Union is concerned at the alarming situation of thousands of refugees from Abkhazia and has recently considerably increased its humanitarian efforts in the region. It strongly urges the parties to the conflict not to impede the work of those assisting the troubled population.